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# The Hongkong Telegraph.

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## Soviets Erect Barrier At Berlin Airfield

### Military Post Set Up In British Territory

#### TRAIN SERVICES CANCELLED

Berlin, Apr. 1.—Soviet troops today established a military post with a barrier at the crossroads on the edge of the British Berlin airfield at Gatow, just inside the British sector, it was officially announced tonight. The Soviet troops detained several British people, including two women, but later released them.

A protest demanding the withdrawal of the post has been sent to General Kotikov by Major General E. O. Herbert, the British commander in Berlin. When the Soviet troops were asked to leave immediately by a British officer, they stated they could not go away without the permission of General Alexander Kotikov, commanding the Soviet troops in Berlin.

Three of the four roads forming the crossroads were then closed by British troops.

The British trains detained by Soviet frontier guards at Marienborn have been ordered to Berlin immediately by the British authorities. The order was given after General Brownjohn had discussed the situation with General Lukatschenko at Soviet headquarters at Karshorst tonight.

The tone of the conversation was stated to be "not hostile but firm." General Brownjohn was reported to have told General Lukatschenko of the British objection to the new Soviet regulations in much the same terms as those he used in his note of protest yesterday.

The Soviet general replied with the same arguments as were put forward in the original Soviet notification sent to the three Western powers on Tuesday.

The Soviet representative insisted on Soviet officials being given the right to enter and search British trains, and General Brownjohn repeated the British refusal to allow them to do so.

After the meeting, an official British spokesman said there was no reason for supposing that it had any positive results. He added there would be no more British trains

across the Soviet Zone until further notice.

General Brownjohn spoke only on behalf of the British authorities and had not acted as a spokesman for the three Western Allies, it was stated.

All Russian troops guarding frontier lines have been issued with live ammunition, sources in close touch with Russian Command circles reported tonight.

Previously, only those troops in what were considered dangerous spots had live ammunition. Views expressed in these circles held that the Soviet Command was fully prepared to take measures to counteract the British and American intention to use aircraft.

## BRITAIN SUSPENDS TRAINS

Britain tonight followed the United States action in cancelling all military trains in and out of Berlin after the sudden imposition by the Russians of new travel restrictions between the capital and the Western Zones.

It was announced that the suspension of British trains was a "temporary measure for the new few days." Aircraft and buses will be used to take British personnel between the British Zone and Berlin.

The Americans took similar action earlier in the day. They have

switched to air transport in and out of the capital.

Major-General Neville Brownjohn, the British Deputy Military Governor, is later tonight calling on Lieutenant-General Luyantchenko, the Soviet Chief of Staff, after a day of huddles of the Western occupation powers' rail and road services following the Soviet order tightening up control of frontier and zonal traffic.

General Brownjohn is asking for an explanation of the Soviet action in stopping British military trains at the Anglo-Soviet zonal frontier during the night.

Trains piled up at the British-Russian zonal border station of Helmsdorf, as two British military trains—one entering and one leaving the Russian Zone—were held up at Marienborn, six miles east of the line, by the new Soviet restrictions.

On the Autobahn—the road route forming the land corridor to Berlin from the West—the Russians set up two new check points, at one of which, near Hameln Bridge, far-capped Russian troops armed with tommy guns and automatic weapons, stood by while officers inspected the travelling documents of British, French and American drivers.

German traffic along the Autobahn is being held up by a "check of fear" by farmers living nearby, dropped in almost nothing today, a Berlin police officer said.

A number of British officers, travelling from Berlin to the British Zone by car, returned to the British military police post on the outskirts of Berlin when the Russians at this spot objected that their papers did not carry today's date.

Armed with new travel papers, they returned to the check point and were then allowed to pass.

### BRITISH SUBMIT PROTEST

The Military Governors of the three Western Zones, General Sir Brian Robertson, General Lucius D. Clay and General Pierre Koenig, met at the British Control Commission headquarters here to review the problem caused by the Soviet tightening of control.

Major-General Brownjohn, the British Chief of Staff, protested to the Russians against the detention of British trains and was reported to be trying to meet the Russian authorities to discuss the position after two British trains, together with two American trains, had been stopped by Soviet guards at the Russian control post of Marienborn.

Only one Allied train had been allowed through since midnight, it was authoritatively learned.

The British trains, held up there, were shunted on to sidelines to make way for a buffer car—equipped with shortwave radio—sent from Helmsdorf to provide food for their passengers.

While no immediate details of the "air passages" scheme were available, its adoption and the cancellation of American trains would make a major step in American policy to keep the communications open in spite of the new Soviet regulations.

If the supply of food for the German population of the American sector of Berlin became involved, it would present the greatest air transport problem since the movement of whole armies during wartime.

"We have been prepared for

anything," the chief operations officer of the American Army Air Force in Europe, Brigadier General J. F. Blaine, said as officers discussed plans for an "air bridge."

Significant of the tightening of the restrictions along the zonal border was a report in an American-licensed Berlin newspaper that 350 motor vehicles had been requisitioned for the "Western frontier's protection" in the Toltow districts, near Berlin, by the Brandenburg (Soviet Zone) Government.

All along the Anglo-Russian zonal border, Soviet control has been strongly tightened, although the border has not been completely closed.

All frontier posts are strongly manned and villages not previously garrisoned are now occupied by Soviet troop detachments, according to Germans who have succeeded in crossing into the British Zone.

Meanwhile, an unusual situation arose with regard to the Braunschweigische Kohlen-Bergwerke coal-mines, just outside Helmsdorf.

Situated partly in the British Zone and partly in the Soviet Zone, they were immediately affected by the new Soviet restriction.

About 1,000 of the mines' 7,000 German workers who have to pass through the Russian Zone on their way to work were stopped at the Russian check point and "wanted" that by tomorrow afternoon they must produce new-type passes bearing their photographs.

(Continued on Page 4)

### The Royal Family



Their Majesties the King and Queen celebrate their silver wedding anniversary on April 26. Here is the latest portrait of the King and Queen, with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, taken at Buckingham Palace last month.

## Security Council Approves US Truce Plan For Palestine

Lake Success, Apr. 1.—The Security Council of the United Nations tonight unanimously adopted the American proposal for a truce in Palestine. Earlier, Argentina announced that she would support the United States request for a special session of the General Assembly on Palestine.

Dr Jose Arce (Argentina) said: "If there are powers who are interested in creating chaos in Palestine in order to infiltrate into the Middle East and gain a political foothold, we shall oppose them."

The debate was resumed under the new Presidency of Dr Alfonso Lopez of Colombia.

M. Joseph Wiesel (Belgium) also supporting the United States, said it was the Security Council's duty to call a special session and inform the Assembly certain obligations in the enforcement of partition could not be carried out.—Reuter.

### ARABS' TRUCE TERMS

Damascus, Apr. 2.—The Arabs will agree to a truce in Palestine only if Hagannah, the powerful Jewish defence force and similar organizations are dissolved and a Democratic state set up in the Holy Land, Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, said on Thursday.

The United States proposal for a truce in Palestine was discussed by the Arab higher executive in two meetings on Wednesday, Azzam Pasha told the Associated Press in an exclusive interview.

No decision was reached at either meeting, the Secretary General said. Premier Aiyad Al Sulh of the Lebanon was quoted as saying that although Arabs are desirous for peace in the Holy Land, they will not lay down their arms until Arab aspirations there are fully realised.—Associated Press.

### THREE-CORNERED BATTLE

Jerusalem, Apr. 1.—Searchlights swept the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem tonight as a three-cornered battle was fought between Arabs and Jews with the British intervening.

There was a steady rattle of machine-gun fire and some explosions, believed to have been caused by the firing from British light artillery, fired as a warning to stop the fighting.—Reuter.

### FILM OFFICES ROBBED

Jerusalem, Apr. 1.—A group of armed Arabs penetrated the offices of the Palestine Government film section in Jerusalem's Katamon quarter this afternoon and made off with valuable equipment including cameras and projectors valued at £10,000, a reliable private source reported.

The offices are situated in the heavily protected security zone.—Associated Press.

### HEAVY CASUALTIES

Jerusalem, Apr. 1.—Nearly 2,000 Arabs, Jews and Britons have been killed in Palestine since the United Nations resolution on partition last November touched off fresh Arab-Jewish strife, official figures disclosed today.

Of those killed, 110 were British soldiers or police. More than 4,000 people have also been wounded, 1,407 of them seriously.

The sources showed that 566 of the deaths occurred during March this year.—Reuter.

### CONVOY AMBUSHED

Jerusalem, Apr. 1.—Nine Jews were killed and 17 wounded when a large Jewish food convoy, trying to fight its way through the Arab blockade to relieve the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem, made a second attempt today to burst through Arab road blocks in the Judean Hills.

The convoy, which had been sheltering near the settlement of Huda, after being ambushed by Arabs last night, made its bid to get through simultaneously with a strong drive by Hagannah forces at Mount Castel, in the hills west of Jerusalem, in an attempt to beat back the Arabs lying in wait for the food lorries.

The casualties were thought to have been high among the Hagannah "striking force." The Jews claimed to have killed 20 Arabs.

The convoy was forced to turn back after the battle.

The convoy has already lost two armoured cars, one lorry and a tractor, the police headquarters announced today.

The convoy was held up by Arab mines and road blocks at the village of Huda. The vehicles left were apparently wrecked and burned out when they tried to smash through some road blocks.

Another report said the Arabs had captured six armoured lorries during last night's attack.

The Arabs claimed 60 men of the Hagannah guards have been killed, though the Jewish Agency maintained there had been no fatal casualties.

### DWINDLING FOOD STOCKS

Meanwhile, officials of the Palestine Government have been in touch with Arab leaders in an attempt to negotiate methods by which food convoys may be allowed to enter Jerusalem without bloodshed.

Jews in Jerusalem are hoarding tinned food and queuing outside the breadshops because of dwindling stocks.

A mortar bomb exploded near the Zion Gate—one of the eight gates of Jerusalem's Old Walled City—last night, as Arabs in Deir Abu Tor village and Jews in the Yemen Moshe quarter of Jerusalem renewed their daily gun battle.—Reuter.

### Norway Will Resist Any Aggression

Madison, Wisconsin, Apr. 1.—Norway is determined to stand up against any future aggressor, "from wherever he might come," the Norwegian Ambassador, M. Wilhelm Munthe de Morgenstjerne, declared here last night.

The Ambassador was addressing a Norway Week dinner at the University of Wisconsin.

He named no possible aggressor but asserted "it is my profound conviction that the overwhelming majority of the Norwegian people would rather perish than submit to terror and slavery imposed by anti-democratic forces."

Norway would fight with everything it possessed against any attempt by "foreign or domestic enemies" to destroy its freedom and democratic institutions.

## No ERP Aid For Spain After All

Washington, Apr. 1.—Spain has been eliminated from the European recovery programme by the joint House and Senate Conference, now sitting on the final aid legislation.

Earlier in the day, the Presidential Press Secretary, Mr Charles Ross, said President Truman "is utterly opposed" to the inclusion of Spain in the ERP. He said the President wished the Spain clause, inserted by the House, to be stricken out from the draft legislation at the Senate-House Conference.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, announced the decision to eliminate Spain from the European aid programme an hour after the announcement by Mr Ross of the President's opposition.

### DECISION REVERSED

The admission of Spain was approved in the House of Representatives by 149 votes to 52 on Tuesday night.

After the joint House-Senate Conference, Senator Vandenberg said: "The conference agreed to eliminate Spain because the bill, as originally drawn up, leaves membership in the organisation of the participating nations open to any other additional nations which may be invited by the presently participating nations."

"Therefore, the conferees feel that a decision respecting Spain is the function and prerogative of the 10 participating nations which have already organised themselves into a co-operating unit under the recovery act."

Senator Vandenberg said no other substantial progress was made this morning in ironing out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the European aid bill. "It would be pretty optimistic to say we shall finish by tonight," he declared.—Reuter.

### LONDON PLEASSED

London, Apr. 1.—British official quarters tonight warmly welcomed the decision of the United States Congressional conference that Spain be excluded from the European recovery programme.

Yesterday's decision by the House of Representatives had created considerable misgivings in London political quarters. It had been feared that it would cause serious misunderstandings among member nations of the European recovery programme.

A Foreign Office spokesman stated that today's decision, following the earlier expression of President Truman's opposition to Spain's inclusion, coincided with the British policy.

The implications of the earlier House of Representatives vote were under serious discussion at the Foreign Office today.—Reuter.

### DISASTROUS FIRE

Sydney, April 1.—A disastrous fire in Sydney tonight destroyed raw cotton estimated to be worth £600,000.

The cotton was stored in an iron building. The fire started early in the evening and was still burning fiercely at midnight.—Associated Press.

Have you told your servants the Colony is suffering a water famine? Do so immediately and make them **Save Water**

### Colonies And Trade Preferences

London, Apr. 1.—There was "a certain element of truth" in a report that British colonies will, in future, give Italy trade preferences more favourable than are enjoyed by the Dominions, a Colonial Office spokesman said today.

The spokesman was commenting on a statement by Sir Earle Page, former member of the Australian Government, that the Colonial Office had instructed East African colonies to give Italy and Germany trade preference over Dominions such as South Africa and Australia.

Sir Earle Page urged a combined Dominion protest to the British Government.

"This report is not true about Germany," the spokesman said, "but there is a certain element of truth in it with regard to Italy, which arises from interpretations of Colonial Office directives by individual colonies."

The British Government will shortly issue fresh instructions to British colonies on trade preferences, Reuter learns.—Reuter.

### Paris Visit For Princess

London, Apr. 1.—Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Paris on May 14 at the invitation of the President of the French Republic, it was announced from Buckingham Palace tonight.

They will stay at the British Embassy and will open the exhibition of eight centuries of British life in Paris.

They will remain in Paris until Tuesday morning, May 18, probably returning by air.—Reuter.

### EDITORIAL

## An Active Parliament

PARLIAMENT is in recess until April 6, when, on reassembling, it will listen to Sir Stafford Cripps' first budget. It has already been disclosed that the revenue for the past year far exceeded expectations and that the Treasury possesses the remarkable surplus of more than £600 million. In the ordinary course of events the British taxpayer could look forward to some taxation relief, but Sir Stafford needs all that surplus and much more to help the country turn the economic corner. It is conceivable that the Chancellor may be able to offer one or two slight concessions in the way of reduced indirect taxation—perhaps a little off beer and tobacco, but it seems unlikely that there will be any substantial reductions in Government's call on the taxpayers' purse. Speculation on this subject, however, is rather fruitless, and it may be somewhat more pertinent to study Parliament's work up to the present stage of this session. So far 52 Bills have been introduced, and about half of them are already law. The more important of the Acts passed are those giving independence to Burma and Ceylon and amending the constitution of New Zealand which removes the last vestige of control by Parliament at Westminster. The Dominion is now free to alter her constitution as she wishes. Another important measure is the Overseas Resources Development Act which enables the Government to undertake big works of food growing and other development both inside and outside the British Commonwealth. Hongkong qualifies for inclusion but as yet no hint has been given whether or not it is intended to apply the Act to this part of the Empire. Other Bills of constitutional importance are that of end-

ing British responsibility for Palestine and two of special concern to Westminster itself. The Parliament Bill to diminish the powers of the House of Lords is through the Commons, but by agreement between the Labour and Conservative parties its course through the Lords, where it would have been defeated, has been interrupted. Conferences are being held and the outcome is likely to be some agreement for a comprehensive reform of the powers and constitution of the Upper House. The Representation of the People's Bill is intended to alter the membership of the House of Commons. Two special kinds of vote—held by university graduates and by the occupiers of business premises—are to be abolished and in the reorganisation of constituencies the City of London is to lose its peculiar representation. But while it seeks to restrict its powers, the Government yet makes very full use of the House of Lords. Eleven Bills so far this session have begun their course through Parliament in the Lords, including one to amend the law affecting companies, and the Children Bill which will extend the care of the State for children who do not have normal home life. One measure of nationalisation—that for the gas industry—is on its way through Parliament, and given no hint of any intention to drop the idea of introducing in this session its Bill to nationalise the iron and steel industry. It remains a question whether it will, in fact, judge the time ripe for so considerable a measure. Whatsoever its decision, Government can point to a session of marked legislative activity and can look forward to the Budget debate with some confidence.



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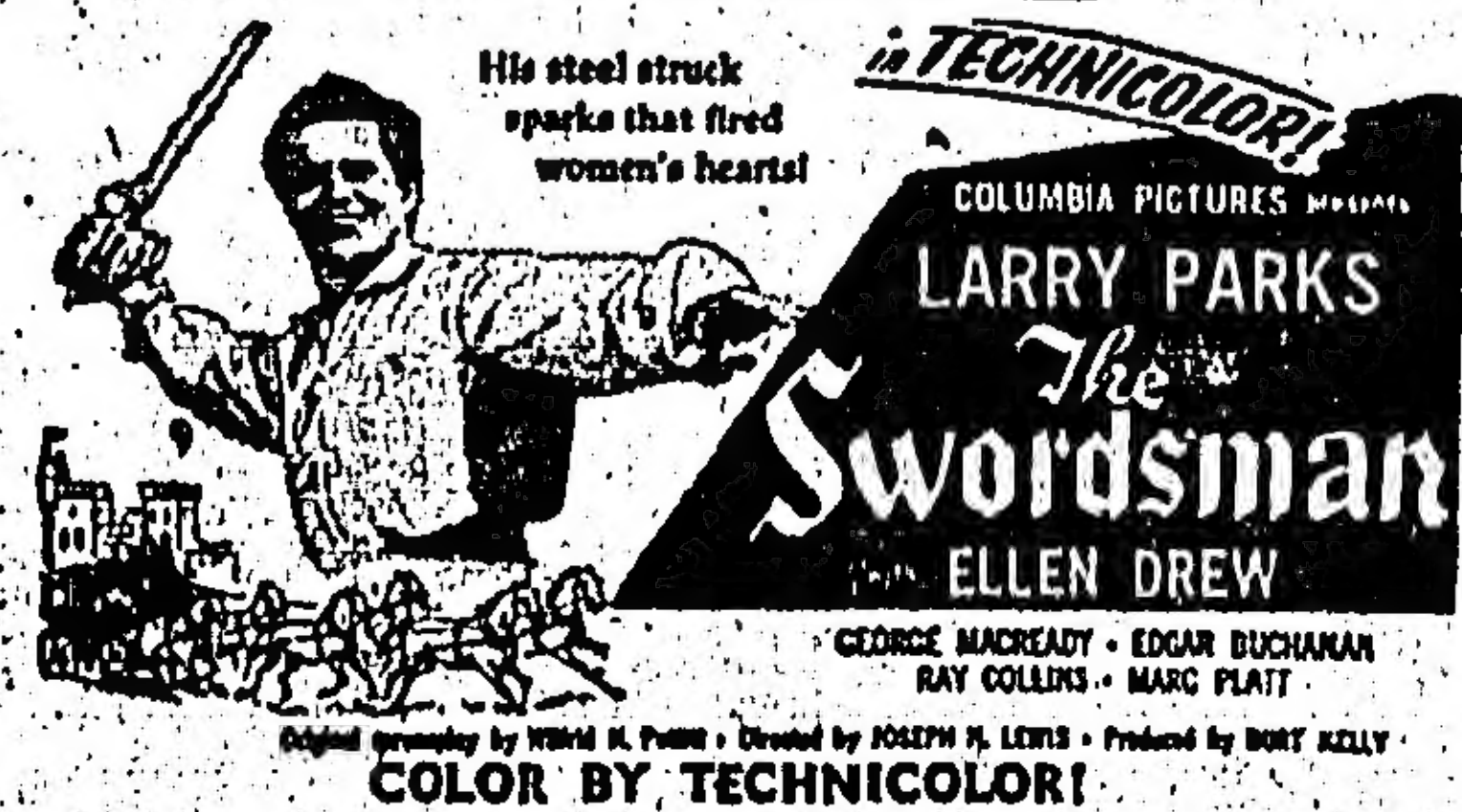
**ORIENTAL**

COMMENCING TO-DAY: 2.30-5.15-7.20-9.20 P.M.

The Story that has Thrilled the World for a Hundred Years at last Comes to the Screen!



SHOWING TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



# This story should have brightened a grim day...

by DAVID LEWIN

THE British film producer's remark at lunch was symptomatic: "I don't know whether I can afford to join both 'Ciros' and 'Les Ambassadeurs,'" he said.

So Hollywood is apparently not the only place where the champagne has gone a little flat. Film people will usually tell you practically anything about their pictures. But yesterday—when the "shining prospects" of our film industry might have provided an antidote to the grim news from Cripps—I learned:

THAT seven of our smaller studios capable of making 20 films a year are closed;

THAT Denham and Pinewood, the largest studios, which can make between ten six or seven films at a time, are only working on four;

THAT 300 to 400 film technicians—30 per cent. of the total number on feature films—are out of work;

THAT many of our pictures take up to six months to make.

## One-two-three

BRITISH studios should be able to make 100 first features a year. The producers say that this year they hope to turn out 75—but the most optimistic forecast of the showmen is that at the very best we shall get 40 to 45 first features.

Now what are the factors holding up our films? I would list three:

1. Lack of money;
2. Waste of time;
3. Misunderstanding of the market where the big money is—America.

Take money first. When the independent producers go to the City in search of The Man With Money to Spare, this is what they are told: "Films are simply not a safe investment. Too much goes out and too little comes in."

Until Mr Rank announced his £2,000,000 low fee people had realised exactly how bad things were. But most people in the industry had the uneasy feeling that one day the relentlessness of mathematics would catch up on them. It was simply that most of our pictures were costing more to make than the £200,000 they can take back at the cinemas in this country.

Examples: £500,000 for "Henry V.", £600,000 for "An Ideal Husband", and another £600,000 for "Anna Karenina". Prestige was always the explanation. "The idea in those days was that if you spent enough money the picture was bound to be good. And that it would have a world market, with the emphasis on America and its dollar store. It didn't quite work out that way."

## Lost time

NOW take a look at the second cause for the hold-up—waste of time in the studios. These days you find that the sure technique to make a film producer uncomfortable is to start asking questions about the time he spends making his pictures.

"Anna Karenina" was six months in production. So was "Hamlet." "Men of Two Worlds," which is

being re-issued in an attempt to get back some of its £600,000 cost, was on location in Africa for ten months.

An English film takes an average of four months to complete. In America they can make two films in that time. Talk to David Niven if you need an example of what I mean. He is back in Hollywood waiting to start work on his next American film. But his English colour picture, "Bonnie Prince Charlie," is still joggling along here. This week it celebrated six months in a studio. By the time the unit has made its second trip to Scotland in the summer over a year will have passed. We can do much better. Sydney Box, completed "Easy Money" in seven weeks for £100,000. Herbert Wilcox directed "Spring in Park Lane" in eight weeks.

## Lost chances

NEXT—Point 3: Do we understand the market where the big money is—both here and in America? At a time when the steepening cost of living finds new uses for our spare shillings, you would imagine that every effort would be made to magnetise people to the pay-box by films of irresistible entertainment value.

It does not seem so. Michael Balcon put it to me this way: "We seem quite good at pub scenes at Ealing Studios—but as for sparkling comedy—we just seem to miss it!" I dare say Margaret Lockwood echoes that view. Tired of being "a heavy" since "The Wicked Lady," she has had to wait three months for a part with a laugh in it.

Only Herbert Wilcox came near to the mood of the mass audience. His "Courtneys of Curzon Street," with Anna Neagle and Michael Redgrave, was last year's box-office success.

When British pictures fail at home they do not stand a much better chance in America. "Henry V." and "Great Expectations" did well in the big city cinemas where they were shown. But many of the films we send out get a good run in what are termed the "art houses." "Tawny Pipit," for example, ran for 12 weeks in New York, but in a cinema the size of the London Academy.

## Great push

OUT in the Middle West it is worse. To audiences there even the British accents are slow and unintelligible. I am told that when "Piccadilly Incident" is shown there it is "dubbed" so that he sounds like an American.

There has been a great push to sell unknown British stars to the Americans. Cinema managers and distributing companies who have helped there say the results have been "spotty." A British picture may do well in one city and then "fall on its face" in the next.

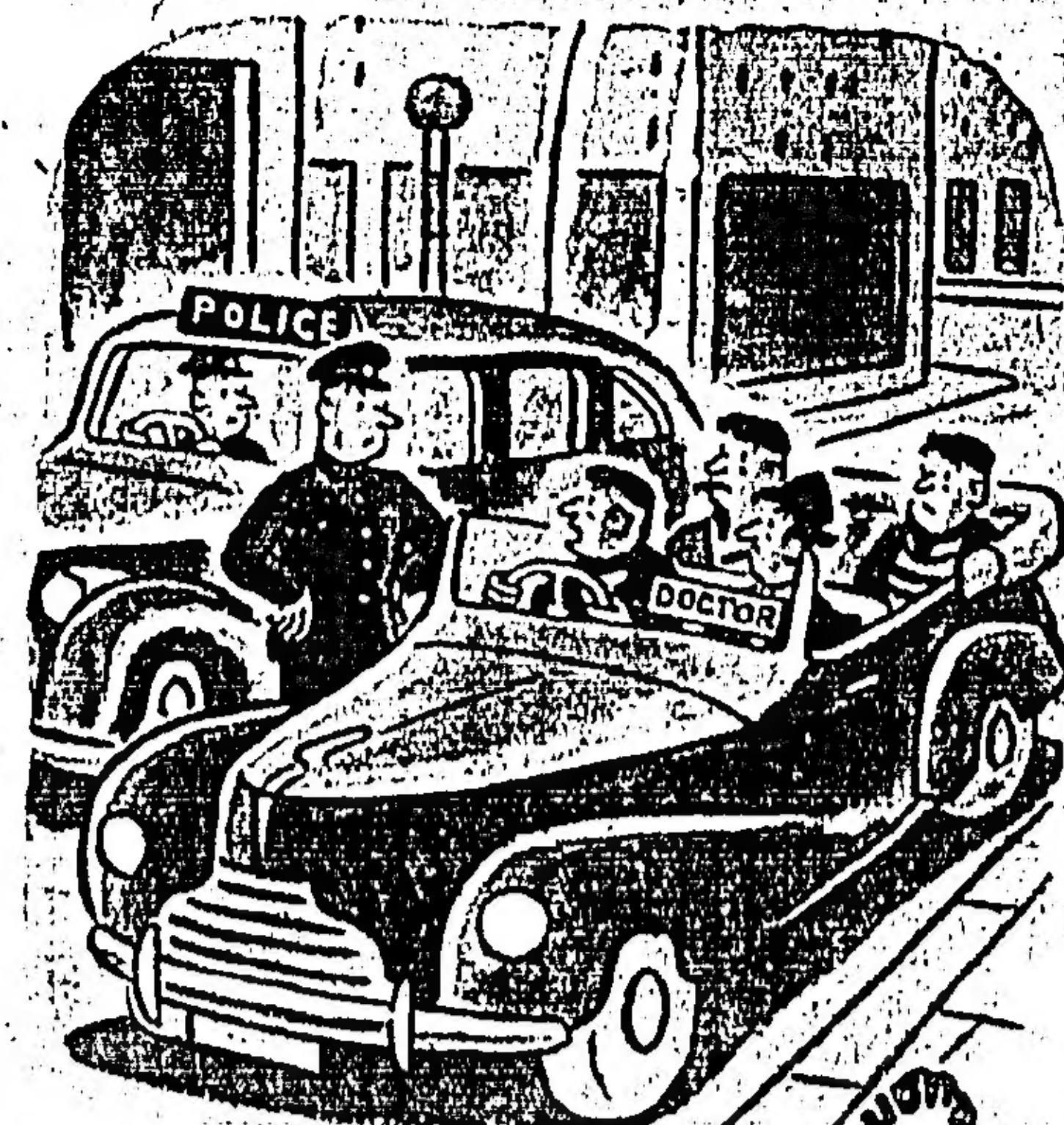
Advertising is not only out of the money but often defeats itself as well. "Life and Death of Colonel Blimp" was at one time advertised by posters showing an old man learning at a young girl. The audience attracted by that kind of appeal was bored; the audience which might have appreciated the film simply stayed away. "Colonel Blimp" ended

its American run in the red. We paid out more than it had taken at the box office.

No one knows precisely how many dollars have come back to Britain from the showing of our films in America. Mr Rank has some of the figures. They remain his secret.

An American film chief has said that the most a British film can earn is about £100,000 after costs have been paid. I do not suppose that one film has earned this much in dollars as far as Britain is concerned. Earnings in the U.S. have a habit of being completely absorbed in such costs as advertising and exploitation.

It all makes sad reading. The headline on this story was written because everyone agrees that now is Britain's great opportunity in films—a chance at least to lift our spirits with brisk entertainment. The chance is being muffed.



"What makes you think we ain't doctors hurrying to an urgent operation?"

# ..... THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION OF THE YEAR

THE first days of the already fierce Italian electoral campaign developed phrases describing the April 18 national voting such as the following:

1. The cold war elections.
2. The United States foreign policy elections.
3. The elections for the control of the Mediterranean.
4. The Marshall Plan elections.
5. Communism's showdown with the Catholic Church, or vice versa.
6. The Cominform test.
7. The world's most important elections in 1948.
8. Italy's "Iron Curtain" choice.
9. American Democracy versus Russian Democracy.
10. The "last chance" elections.

These 10 descriptions, in various phrasings, emerged from the first few million words of political oratory and mud-slinging which began in earnest with the formal announcement of the opening of the electoral campaign.

At this writing, between 20,000,000 and 25,000,000 Italians are expected to vote for a new, two-house parliament. There will be about 10 major lists of candidates, although more than 60 parties have already filed emblems giving them the right to file slates of candidates.

By far the biggest contestants will be the moderate rightist Christian Democrats—the Catholic party which controls the government—and the "Popular Democratic Bloc," which includes the Communists and left wing Socialists.

## 1946 POLLING

At the last national elections in 1946, the Christian Democrats polled approximately 8,000,000 of the 22,000,000 total, and the Communists and Socialists together polled just over 8,000,000. The Communists are believed to have increased their strength considerably in the meantime, but the Socialists have split and a minority wing has denounced Communism and will run independently.

The first prediction of the outcome of the election from outside Italy came in a recent London Times editorial projecting the possibility of a victory by the Social Communist bloc.

Predictions of their own certain victory by the major Italian contenders have been equally vociferous, indicating a pretty even battle.

Five dead in a political gun fight in the south during the first week of the campaign indicate that there will be few, if any, holds barred in the electoral battle.

The main issues of the campaign are embodied in the foregoing 10 descriptions of how the elections look to all parties involved.

## AMERICA'S POLICY

THE "cold war" label came from the fact that both the United States and Russia are almost directly represented by the main contestants, the Christian Democrat government party, which the United States openly supports, and the Italian Communist Party, which speaks for the Soviet Union.

United States foreign policy is so directly involved that American Embassy officials, close to the battle in Italy, believe the Italian election outcome is more important to the United States than whether a Democrat or a Republican wins the elections at home.

To implement its policy, the United States has kept material aid flowing to Italy (the total is now almost \$2,500,000,000), has kept its naval vessels in Italian ports and has added Marines to the ships. Russia has constantly objected to the material aid as imperialistic, and has specially protested against the visits of United States ships and the sending of the Marines.

Italy is in the throes of an all-absorbing electoral campaign. Most of the news from Italy—and a lot of it from Washington and Moscow—will be coloured by, or have a bearing on, the Italian elections between now and the voting date, April 18. Here is the first overall look at these impending elections, written by the United Press Manager for Italy.

## J. EDWARD MURRAY

Control of the Mediterranean is involved, because the 10,000 Anglo-American troops at Trieste, the entire Anglo-American effort in Greece, the American reactivation of the Malhass air base at Tripoli and the United States fleet with Marines in Italian and Greek waters, would all be nullified or become impossible through Communist assumption of power through the Italian voting.

The reason is geographical: the Italian peninsula, with excellent ports and airfields, slashes in a strategic diagonal across the middle of the Mediterranean and dominates it.

## CHURCH STAND

THE Catholic Church, with its world headquarters in Rome's Vatican City, demonstrated its vital concern in the elections by openly joining in the battle against the Communists through Catholic newspapers.

The Catholic Church, with its world headquarters in Rome's Vatican City, demonstrated its vital concern in the elections by openly joining in the battle against the Communists through Catholic newspapers.

The Cominform came in for mention because the non-Communists charged that it was directing Communist strategy in the first big national elections in a member country since it was formed.

These issues of the cold war, United States foreign policy, the Mediterranean, the Marshall Plan, the Catholic Church and the Cominform naturally have led political orators to see the Italian elections as the most important anywhere during the coming year.

The more specifically Italian issues fall under the "Iron Curtain Choice" and American versus Russian type of democracy, because the Italian Communists have openly announced their intention of reforming drastically Italy's political economy along the lines of the so-called "Eastern Progressive Democracies" under Russia's wing.

To underline the importance of the voting, non-Communists are telling their audiences it is "the last chance election." They mean that if the Communists win, they (moderates and rightists) will never get another chance because Communists do not believe in the same kind of elections when they are in control.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



# BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

En una freda montanya Del terme de Odello, En la terra de Cerdanya, Als confins del Rossello...

SO runs the Catalan song of the Cerdagne, and when the other day I saw in a shop window a picture of the mountains which guard Nuri, as you see them from above Font-Romeu, I was transported in a flash of time to the old stones of Eynes and the high cleft of Cambrass d'Aze.

I heard the running water in that wild gully above the trees and saw the mist wreathing up and the early sunlight on the snow. My great staff Durandal was in my hand, and my boots were full of rough red wine at a penny a bucketful. Then someone bumped into me, and I was only staring at a picture.

## Give her this

NO gentleman's library is complete without the "List of Hunting-donshire Cabmen," the standard work on this subject. Of this work the P.E.N. Club said, "Since there are only a certain number of cabmen in the county, and their names are easily procured, Encke's comes to this: this will be the last word on the subject until new cabmen are appointed. Though not of general or very wide interest, this book can be confidently recommended to all foreigners whose aim is to keep in touch with the names and initials of the cabmen of this most English of our counties." A review in the Turkish paper "Kainarja ul Torih" says, "Factual rather than diverting."

Strabismus on the comet DR. STRABISIMUS, (Whom God Preserve) of Utrecht, told a Press conference that, in his opinion,

the new comet is Encke's, because its force is diminishing in proportion to the inverse square of its distance from the moon. Moreover, its parabola, or elongated ellipse, is apparently in inverse proportion to its hyperbola. It is this so its perihelion passage may be dated November 10, 1970, which is the very date on which Encke's comet was seen from Mount Bobababa by St. Clair Weston and Dr. Glass.

## Was it waterproof?

The latest research has established. From remains found on Mount Ararat, That when Noah disembarked he was wearing A little round wickerwork hat. (In a letter to the Journal of the Fossil Club, Professor Fuffinger says: "We may have found, embedded in the gneiss deposits, the first wicker work so-called 'wicker' work, if you can get it, Professor.")

NANCY And While—With Fury



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Sole Agents: NAN KANG CO. SINGAPORE







## VETERANS V. WALLACE

New York, Apr. 1.—Nearly 500 pickets, belonging to veterans' organizations attempted vainly to break up a meeting at which the third party presidential candidate, Henry Wallace, denounced the American threat to cut off aid to Italy if that nation goes Communist.

Pickets screaming "Down with Wallace, Shoot the Communists, Down with the Volga Boatman," pounded the heavy doors but were unable to get in the Brooklyn school building where Wallace was speaking.

Wallace said the United States plan to cut off aid to Italy if the Communists win the April 18 elections was "ruthless coercion," and said the policy would breed civil war in Italy.—United Press.

## BAO DAI'S AUTHORITY IN DOUBT

London, Apr. 1.—Commenting in its current issue on the conflict between the French and the Vietnamese Republic Government in Indo-China, the left wing weekly, New Statesman, observed that "the French efforts, both on the political and military field, continue their record of failure."

Recalling that the Vietnam forces "repulsed heavy attacks during January and February and followed up these victories by a series of attacks on French convoys, the paper added: "The French political efforts to use the ex-Emperor Bao Dai have been equally unsuccessful."

"No French offer, however attractive, could be guaranteed, since the French did not control events in Indo-China," said the paper, and, on the other hand, no promise on Bao Dai's part could be guaranteed since he had no real following in his country."

The President of the Vietnamese Republic Government, Dr. Ho Chi-minh, still holds the reins of power, and has the support of the people, the New Statesman said. "Bao Dai therefore seems to have decided on a new line of action. He is challenging Ho Chi-minh on the grounds of the failure of the Vietnam Army to keep the promise made to him when he abdicated the throne in March, 1945."

"He claims to be in full possession of his rights as Emperor, and at the same time puts forward the fantastic claim that he has the right to form a Central Government with the former Prime Minister of Annam at its head. This is a play on politics."

"No move on either side can hope to succeed until the central fact is recognized, namely, that Dr. Ho Chi-minh is today the only effective guarantor of any agreement."—Reuter.

## Russians See Spies Around

Berlin, Apr. 1.—Colonel Sergei Tulpanov, the Soviet Information Control Chief, told a German audience at Halle, in the Soviet zone, tonight: "Masses of spies from the British and American zones are moving into Berlin and from there to the Soviet zone for military, economic and political espionage."

"This cannot go on merely because the frontier is not guarded closely enough."

Colonel Tulpanov said the Russians can no longer tolerate the "plundering" of Berlin by the British and Americans.—Reuter.

## NOTICE

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN & MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

Notice to Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held in the Jacobean Room of the Hongkong Hotel, Pedder Street, Hongkong, on Saturday, the 3rd April, 1948, at NOON, for the following purposes, namely, to consider the annual statement of accounts and the balance sheet, and the reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon, to elect Directors and Auditors in the place of those retiring, to declare a dividend and bonus, to appropriate the balance of Profit and Loss Account as recommended by the Directors, and to transact any other ordinary business of the Company.

AND NOTICE is also given that the Share Transfer Registers will be closed from 30th March, 1948 to 3rd April, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,  
R. A. WICKERSON,  
Managing Director.  
Hongkong, 9th March, 1948.

## National Assembly Can Check China's Downward Plunge

London, Apr. 1.—China's first National Assembly, which held its inaugural meeting on March 29, may "put a stop to the headlong deterioration which almost every aspect of China presents" if the Assembly can make full use of its opportunities, O. M. Green, former editor of the North China Daily News, wrote today in the monthly publication, Nineteenth Century.

## TRIAL OF HIMMLER'S DEPUTY

The Hague, Apr. 1.—Hans Albin Rauter, former chief of the Nazi security service in Holland and Himmler's personal representative, faced a special court here today, charged with murdering Jews and shooting Dutch partisans.

The indictment against Rauter accused him of responsibility for the deportation of 110,000 Dutch Jews, only 6,000 of whom returned after the war.

Dressed in his old SS uniform, from which the badges have been removed, Rauter admitted he had signed several of the notorious Jewish deportation decrees.

He told the court that he was subordinate to Seyss-Inquart, the German Commissioner for the Netherlands during the occupation, but as Himmler's personal representative, he was responsible for the situation in Holland.

The Austrian Legation today denied that Rauter possessed Austrian nationality, saying he was deprived of Austrian citizenship in November 1933, because of "treasonous acts."

He escaped justice by flight, the statement added.—Reuter.

## BRITISH SALES OF GOLD

London, Apr. 1.—Britain's gross sales of gold during March were announced by the Treasury tonight at £6,000,000. This compares with £27,000,000 in February and £26,500,000 in January.

During March, however, Britain also bought \$60,000,000 from the International Monetary Fund, which has no counterpart in February or January.

Small gold sales in March had accordingly been expected. In each of the three months, drawings on the United States loan were \$100,000,000 and drawing on the Canadian loan were \$15,000,000.

The aggregate for March was thus about £49,750,000 against £25,750,000 in February and £55,250,000 in January.

These figures are only a rough measure of the true drain on Britain's resources. As they stand, their aggregate indicates that it will be very difficult to keep the drain during the first half of the year down to the Government's target of £222,000,000.—Reuter.

## Chinese Must Leave

Canberra, Apr. 2.—The Australian Government has ordered 600 Chinese to leave Australia by the end of the year. They are the last of nearly 3,000 Chinese refugees who came to Australia during World War II.

They came from Hongkong, Singapore, Indonesia and other islands north of Australia. Most of them are presently businessmen, cafe proprietors, market gardeners and nurses.

Australia is deporting them to maintain her white Australia policy. A Government spokesman said that no concessions would be granted—not even to those who married Australians while here.—Associated Press.

## SWISS FRANC IN FREE MARKET

Paris, Apr. 2.—France added the Swiss franc to her free money market on Thursday with 542,000 changing hands at the first session.

The Swiss franc opened at 70 French francs for one Swiss, and closed at 76.80.

The dollar and the Portuguese escudo quoted on the market closed steadily at 305.20 and 12.15 French francs respectively.

The official rate for the Swiss franc remained at 48.70 French francs for one Swiss franc.

The free rate is for tourists and for the purchase abroad of non-essential imports. The official rate is for the purchase of essential imports such as coal, wheat and textiles.—Associated Press.

## BOAC Fares Up

London, Apr. 1.—British Overseas Airways Corporation increased its trans-Atlantic fares today.

A one-way flight from London to New York costs £86-17-0 compared with the old fare of £80-15-0.

Fares for the London-Montreal flight were increased from £77-10-0 to £83-7-0.—Associated Press.

"If it merely becomes a rubber stamp for the ruling clique of the Kuomintang and the military, there appears nothing to save China from collapsing into a state of anarchy from which it might take her years, even decades, to recover."

He commented that the constitution adopted on Christmas Day, 1946, was "well designed" on paper.

Green suggested that peasants, won over to Communism by the division among them of land and estates and the alienation by the confiscation of their produce and conscription of their young men for the Communist armies, could be won back "if Nanking proved that it could give better conditions of life than Harbin promises."

He added that there was no other way to defeat Communism.

"China wants something new. War goes on because the Generalissimo pointed out when he left China after his long vain efforts for peace there, there is on either side a hard group of stale, ungenerous, implacable men who take counsel only of their own fears and see in every offer from the other side only a plot for their destruction."

"China is sick of them. No single agent may be trusted to unseat them. Yet in the National Assembly there are elements not devoid of hopeful possibilities despite its enormous Kuomintang majority."

## Men Of All Shades

"The Kuomintang is not all tarred with one brush. It contains men of all shades, many of them advanced Liberals, and it is probable that many members only sought election to the Assembly on Kuomintang nomination as the best way of getting in."

Green commented that if events developed as he suggested, "those who know Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek have no doubt on which side his weight will be thrown."

He said an open breach between the Generalissimo and his old colleagues was not to be expected, "but if the tide of feeling in the National Assembly flows as one hopes it will, there is little doubt of Generalissimo Chiang's sympathy and assistance."

Green concluded that good friends of China hoped the fresh loan being considered by Washington would be granted since it would only serve to bolster up the military and the "old gang" who are ruling China.

The Chinese, he said, must find the solution themselves, and "the more they are thrown on their own resources, the sooner they will find it."—Reuter.

## SOVIETS ERECT BARRIER AT BERLIN AIRFIELD

(Continued from Page 1)

As the town possesses only one photographer, the workers immediately protested and asked for more time to secure the required passes.

When this request was refused, they sent a delegation to their directors, who agreed to take up the matter with the Soviet military representatives at Haldeleben, nearby.

An official of the mines told Reuters: "It is practically impossible for us to carry out this order of the Russians by tomorrow afternoon. If they refuse to allow our men to pass through the Russian side on their way to work, our daily output of 10,000 tons of coal will be severely restricted."

The Baden-to-Berlin French military train, which was held up by the Soviet frontier control at Haldeleben this morning, has resumed its journey, and is due in Berlin shortly, the German news agency, DPA, reported.

The French train, which leaves Berlin daily for Baden, will leave according to schedule tomorrow, the French authorities announced officially today.

American circles in Frankfurt tonight thought the transport planes available in the American Zone would be insufficient to supply the Berlin population in the American sector.

This was disclosed, according to DPA, at a meeting of leading United States AAF officers here today.

Two Dakota transport aircraft will go into service between Berlin and Buckeburg, in the British Zone, it was learned.

Seats for high-ranking personnel will be allocated according to priority.

Three omnibuses will also be run between the British Military Government headquarters in Berlin and Haldeleben and points in the British Zone, by normal trains.

Passengers in the buses will presumably have to undergo individual inspection of their transit documents by the Russians, when they pass through the check points.

The Soviet authorities have imposed a complete ban on the movements of goods from the Soviet



"Dear, may I have an appendectomy?"

## WORLD SPORT

### West Indies Win Test By Ten Wicket Margin

Kingston, Jamaica, Apr. 1.—West Indies beat England by 10 wickets in the fourth and final Test match here today, scoring 76 without the loss of a wicket in their second innings after England had been all out for 336 in their second innings.—Reuter.

## OFFER TO TANDBERG

New York, Apr. 1.—Olo Tandberg's American representative said today that the Swedish heavyweight champion is considering an offer from Promoter Jack Solomons to fight Bruce Woodcock in England this summer.—Associated Press.

The Association secretary, Tom Kinnally, said he had received a letter from Wang's trainer, Chen Eoh-yu, in San Francisco, asking that a pair of running shoes be sent there so that Wang might be equipped for a few warmup contests.

Chen enclosed a tracing of Wang's feet and information on height and the runner's arches.

Wang and Lau Wen-ngau, two of China's best distance runners, came to the United States especially to compete in the Boston Marathon which last year was won by Yun Bok-su, a Korean.—United Press.

## FRENCHMAN AND DANE TO MEET

Copenhagen, April 2.—Jean Stock, the French light heavyweight, will meet Denmark's Sven Christensen in Copenhagen in a scheduled eight round bout on April 9, promoter Valdemar Christensen told the Associated Press on Thursday.—Associated Press.

## OILERS WIN LONDON TRIP

New York, Apr. 1.—The Phillips Oilers, playing desperately, won the national Olympic basketball championship with 53 to 49 victory over Kentucky.

It was one of the most bitterly fought contests in the annals of Madison Square Garden. A thoroughly thrilled crowd of 18,000 sat there at the end, too exhausted even to cheer the winners.—United Press.

## A MATTER OF SHOES

Boston, Apr. 1.—China's hopes in the annual April 10 Boston Marathon hinged on a pair of mail order shoes. Without suitable footwear, Wang Chen-ling did not think he would be able to be at his best in the 26 miles 385 yard race sponsored by the Boston Athletic Association.

The score in the only other Rugby Union game scheduled was: Wasps 9, Aberdeen University 3.—Associated Press.

## NEW HOPE FOR FOXES

London, Apr. 1.—The Society for the Prevention of Cruel Sports reported at its annual convention that 400 members of Parliament had promised to support legislation to prohibit fox hunting.—United Press.

## More Money For U.S. Forces

Washington, Apr. 1.—President Truman today authorized the Secretary of Defense, Mr. James Forrestal, to prepare detailed estimates for an additional \$3,000,000,000 for the United States military establishment for the fiscal year July 1948 to June 1949.

In a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Joseph Martin, President Truman said the additional funds were "necessary to enable us to meet our international responsibilities."

He also asked Congress for \$375,000,000 for the fiscal year 1949 to enter into long-term contracts for strategic and critical materials. The President's letter said: "It is my earnest hope that, on the solid foundations of our foreign aid programmes and a limited increase in our present military strength, we can achieve a substantial lessening of the present international tension, and can move forward towards our goal of securing a just and lasting peace."—Reuter.

## CHINESE ENTRY TO U.S.

San Francisco, Apr. 1.—The Chamber of Commerce today urged amendment of the immigration laws to permit the re-entry of Chinese nationals previously resident in the United States.

An amendment to the Chinese Exclusion Act of December 1943 failed to provide for Chinese who legally entered the United States on or after July 1, 1942 to engage in international trade to receive re-entry permits and legally re-enter the country after a visit to their homeland.

As a result these Chinese nationals must, under the existing law, make re-application to enter under the quota limitations, which are not large enough to prevent lengthy waiting periods.

The Chamber said, these Chinese merchants have proved themselves a valuable part of the United States, and urged the inequity of the present law be corrected by the enactment of legislation pending before Congress.—United Press.

## South American Aid For Europe Urged

Bogota, Apr. 1.—General George Marshall, U. S. Secretary of State, today called on Latin America to aid in the rehabilitation of Europe after warning that "if human rights and liberties are blotted out in Europe, they will be increasingly insecure in the New World as well."

Gen. Marshall said that the United States could only finance "a small proportion" of the development needed in Latin America because of "the tremendous drafts" already being made on her resources.

He promised an increase from the Export-Import Bank capital for sound projects, but pointed to the World Bank and private venture capital as the best means of obtaining the necessary finance in Latin America.

Speaking to the second plenary session of the Pan-American Conference, Gen. Marshall said: "We have encountered the determined and open opposition of one group of states. If the United States could be secured, world recovery, and peace would be assured."

"Until such a co-operation is secured, we must proceed with our own efforts."

Heavy Responsibilities  
"My government has assumed heavy responsibilities in this undertaking, but we cannot do the job alone."

"We need the understanding, and co-operation of other nations whose objectives are the same as ours. Many people find themselves today faced with the urgent necessity of meeting staggering and inescapable responsibilities—humanitarian, political, financial and military all over the world."

"The basic economic trouble has been the collapse of European economy."

"The recovery of Europe is therefore a prerequisite to the resumption of trade relations."

"We propose to provide the free nations of Europe with that additional strength they require to defend the free way of life and to preserve the institutions of self-government."

"If human rights and liberties are blotted out in Europe, they will become increasingly insecure in the New World as well."

## Lending Authority

"The United States cannot continue to bear alone the burdens on its own economy now necessary to initiate a restoration of prosperity."

"We have to look to other nations whose interests correspond with ours for active co-operation."

Gen. Marshall announced that President Truman was asking Congress for an increase in the lending authority of the Export-Import Bank.

## OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel post service, minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mail close before 10 a.m., registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. the previous day.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2  
Closing Times by Air  
Salmon and Paris, 2:30 p.m.  
Amoy, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, Chungking, Fochow, Tientsin and Swatow, 3:30 p.m.  
Closing Times by Sea & Train  
Swatow and Bangkok (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Swatow (Train) 3 p.m.  
Japan (Ordinary Letters and Cards only) (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Canton (Second Class Mails only) (Train) 2 p.m.  
Manila, Ceylon, India, East and South Africa (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Parcels and 2nd Class Mail) (Sea) 6 p.m.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Closing Times by Air  
Canton (Kowloon C.F.O.) 7:20 a.m., 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. (G.P.O.) 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m., noon, 2:30 p.m.  
Shanghai, 9 a.m. (reg.), 9:30 a.m. (ord.).  
Manila, P.I., Honolulu, U.S.A. & Canada 9:30 a.m. (reg.); 10 a.m. (ord.).  
Bangkok, Ceylon, Calcutta, Karachi, Birmah, Cato, (Nairobi, Johannesburg and Maracalla via Cairo), Augusta and London (Kowloon C.F.O.) 3 p.m. (G.P.O.) 3:30 p.m.  
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking 3:30 p.m. (reg.); 3:40 p.m. (ord.).  
Closing Times by Sea & Train  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.  
Formosa via Keelung (Sea) 10 a.m.  
Manila, U.S.A., Canada, Central and South America via San Francisco (No parcels for Canada) (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Canton (Second Class Mail) (Train) 2 p.m.  
Straits (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin and Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Shanghai, U.S.A., Canada, Central and South America via San Francisco (No parcels for Canada) (Sea) 5 p.m.  
Canton (Parcels and 2nd Class Mail) (Sea) 5 p.m.

## ZBW RADIO

H.K.T.  
8:00, Programme Summary; 8:05, Children's Hour (Studio); 8:20, Melodies from "The Phils" (B.B.C.); 9:00, World and Home News (London Relay); 9:15, "You Asked For It" Variety Request Programme presented by Lynn Fraser (Studio); 9:15, Andre Kostelanetz and His Orchestra; 9:30, World and Home News (London Relay); 9:45, Weather Report; 9:50, Sweet Serenade; 10:00, "You Asked For It" Variety Request Programme presented by Lynn Fraser; 10:15, "The Puppet Master" New Play by Emily Donnelly with Rita Vale and Zane Perry. (London Relay); 11:00, close down.

## CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers  
1. The Dachshund. 2. Saint John the Baptist. 3. It is part of the Pacific Ocean located five miles south of Sydney, Australia. 4. Twelve hundred. 5. The discovery of spots on the sun. 6. The German printer Johannes Gutenberg.

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to be available for sound projects, and said that foreign capital would naturally gravitate most readily to countries where it was accorded fair and equitable treatment.

He promised United States support for sound development programmes and urged that these be promptly prepared with specific and realistic goals to be accomplished in the next few years.—Reuter.

## STAR

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Randolph Scott, Barbara Britton in "GUNFIGHTERS" Color by Technicolor

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Abbott and Costello in "HERE COME THE CO-EDS"

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